Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to pagodas in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay, Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by SPDC Secretary-1 Thaha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo and Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, visited Maha Arnt-htoo Kantha Hsutaungpyae Pagoda in PyinOoLwin yesterday morning.

The Senior General offered food, fruit, flowers, water, lights and incensed sticks to the Buddha Image inside the Gandhakutitaik (chamber) of the pagoda, and made cash donations to the pagoda through the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General and entourage had a stroll around the pagoda clockwise. On arrival at Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image, the Senior General paid reverence and made cash donations to it.

Next, they helicoptered to Mandalay. There, they were welcomed by Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han, Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Than Tun Aung and officials.

Upon arrival at Mandalay Buddha Tooth Relic Pagoda, the Senior General paid homage to Dhamma Cakkamudra Buddha Image in Gandakutitaik of the pagoda, and donated cash to it. Next, they walked around the pagoda clockwise in reverence of the pagoda.

The Senior General and party visited Hsutaungpyae Pagoda on Mandalay Hill, and paid homage to Kakusam Buddha Image and made cash donations to it.

From the viewpoint of the hill, the Senior General and party inspected progress of Mandalay and tasks for greening the hill. In his guidance, the Senior General called for sustained efforts to green Mandalay Hill.

They viewed documentary photos which are prizewinning works on Mandalay Hill three-season photo contest.

(See page 8)

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe views greening of Sagaing Minwun mountain range from SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda.

MNA

Four political objectives

- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconsolidation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives

- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation
Work harder for speedy industrialization

Myanmar, being an agro-based country, focuses on boosting agricultural production. As a result, Myanmar has stood as one of countries that produce rice and peas largely. Besides, it has enjoyed food security for its future population.

The people on their part have to work harder than ever for greater development and industrialization of the nation. As part of the drive, the government has been constructing hydropower plants throughout the nation to meet local electricity demand. So far, the nation produces 3,000 megawatts of electricity a year.

In addition, the government and national entrepreneurs should work in harmony for industrial development. Now, the nation has seen many industrial regions and zones, and establishing heavy industries and import-substitute industries are gaining momentum.

So far, there are more than 600 State-owned factories, 18 industrial zones and over 60,000 industries due to advanced technologies and many other forms of assistance rendered by the government.

To achieve the goal of becoming an industrialized country, Myanmar has yet to bring about more and more high-tech experts. The government has established Technological University (Yatanarpon Cyber City) in its bid to produce a growing number of intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Production of goods is increasing considerably thanks to many new industrial regions and zones. Quality control should be a high priority in order that local products earn a foothold in international markets. The government has built many good foundations in over 20 years for national development, pouring huge investments into a large variety of projects. The people are therefore to keep working hard in harness to achieve the goal of transforming the nation into an industrialized one.

Book on “Chinese friend, a Myanmar poet’s remembrances” introduced

Commander tours Ottwin, Yedashe stations

In Toungoo, the commander inspected construction of culvert and road.

The following day, the commander inspected local battalions in Yedashe Station and met servicemen and their family members.

Foundation laid for construction of port and waterway terminal of Myanmar-India Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project

Mayyu Road in Sittway of Rakhine State this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Soe Htun, Minister for Transport U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister Mr Jayant Prassad of External Affairs of India, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr Villur Sundararajan Seshadri and embassy staff, chairman of Indian Inland Waterways Authority and officials, responsible persons of ESSAR Projects (India) Co Ltd Mumbai and Myanmar, departmental officials and members of social organizations.

The minister and the indian ambassador formally opened the ceremony. After that, the commander unveiled the stone plaque. The commander and the minister made speeches at the second session held at the Sittway Hotel.

Afterwards, the ambassador and the chairman of Indian Inland Waterways Authority delivered speeches. ESSAR Projects (India) Co Ltd spoke words of thanks.

The minister and the ambassador presented gifts to the Rakhine cultural troupe that entertained with dance.
Foreign troop 2010 toll hits 700 in Afghanistan

KABUL, 19 Dec—Taliban militants launched attacks in Kabul and a major northern city on Sunday as the death toll for foreign troops in Afghanistan hit 700, marking 2010 the deadliest year of the nearly decade-long war.

Two militants wearing vests packed with explosives attacked a bus carrying Afghan soldiers in Kabul, killing at least one soldier, said Kabul Deputy Police Chief Khalilullah Dastyar. The Taleban claimed responsibility for the assault, which was the first major attack in the Afghan capital since May, when six foreign troops were killed in a similar incident.

Police killed the attackers before they could detonate their explosives, Dastyar said.

In the north, five Afghan soldiers and police were killed in an attack by three suicide bombers in the city of Kunduz, which was visited a day earlier by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

Afghan soldiers secure a site as smoke billows following an explosion during a gunbattle on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, 19 Dec, 2010.

**Series of storms threatens Calif with flooding**

LOS ANGELES, 19 Dec—A series of winter storms bearing down on California Saturday was threatening parts of the state with flooding, and officials were posting mudflow warnings in areas recently affected by wildfires ahead of this weekend’s rains.

Southern California will be hit especially hard by the storms, and officials were preparing for possible mudslides in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

“This is one big mother and it’s going to have a lot of waves in it,” National Weather Service spokesman Bill Hoffer said.

Heavy snow hits air travel, roads across Europe

LONDON, 19 Dec—Blizzards and freezing temperatures shut down runways, train tracks and highways across Europe, disrupting flights and leaving slumbering drivers stranded on roadsides.

Airports in Britain, Germany, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark reported cancelations or delays to flights Saturday.

Heathrow Airport would not accept any arrivals Sunday and would allow only a handful of departures after snow and ice forced the closure of runways, but was preparing for a full reopening Monday, a statement on its website said.

Flights at other airports were delayed, with hundreds of cancellations across the continent.


**Seven Bangladeshis, one Afghan kidnapped in N Afghanistan**

KABUL, 19 Dec—Unknown armed men kidnapped seven Bangladeshi and one Afghan in Balkh Province of northern Afghanistan Saturday.

Interior Ministry said Sunday.

“Eight people including seven Bangladesh nationals and an Afghan guard were kidnapped in Balkh Province on Saturday night,” spokesman for Interior Ministry Zamarai Bashari told newsmen at a press conference here.

The abducted people are the employees of a South Korean road construction company, he added.

“No one had been killed during the attack which led to abduction of the eight people,” Bashari told Xinhua.

Some of the abductees are road engineers, working for the South Korean company to build road in the Northern provinces, he further said.

A vehicle drives through a puddle of rain water in Hollywood, California on December 18, 2010.

**Roadside bomb kills one child, injures four in Afghanistan**

KANDAHAR, 19 Dec—A child was killed and four other children were injured as a roadside bomb struck a civilian car in Panjwai District of Kandahar Province in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, district chief said.

“A civilian car ran over a roadside bomb at around 8 am local time as a result an innocent child was killed and four children injured,” Hajji Baran Khaksar told Xinhua. He said the driver had not received any injuries. Meantime, he accused the enemies of peace, a term used against Taleban militants for planting the mine on the road, but the outfit has yet to make comment.

Taliban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops based in Afghanistan have been largely relying on roadside bombings and suicide attacks but the lethal weapons often harm civilians.—Xinhua

**Blast in S Afghanistan kills two, wounding 11 children**

KABUL, 19 Dec—A vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (IED) detonated Saturday in southern Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province, killing two civilians, including one child and wounding 11 children.

A Press release issued by the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said the incident took place in Kandahar District in the Province, but it failed to give more detail.

It said the ISAF is to work with the Afghan authorities to find those responsible for this attack and bring them to justice.

Kandahar Province is branded as the hotbed of the Taleban.

A Press conference is held in Kabul, Afghanistan, 19 Dec, 2010.
Rise in oxygen drove evolution of animal life 550 million years ago

earliest evidence of complex multicellular animal life appears around 550 million years ago, when atmospheric oxygen levels on the planet rose sharply from 3% to their modern day level of 21%.

The team, led by Professor Chris Schofield, has found that humans share a method of sensing oxygen with the world’s simplest known living animal — Trichoplax adhaerens — suggesting the method has been around since the first animals emerged around 550 million years ago.

This discovery, published in the January 2011 edition of EMBO Reports, throws light on how humans sense oxygen and how oxygen levels drove the very earliest stages of animal evolution.

Professor Schofield said: “It’s absolutely necessary for any multicellular organism to have a sufficient supply of oxygen to almost every cell and so the atmospheric rise in oxygen made it possible for multicellular organisms to exist.”

Space superfund needed to clean mounting orbital trash

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — The orbits around Earth are cluttered with chunks of space junk – high-speed riffraff that poses a growing threat to robotic satellites and human-carrying spacecraft.

There are currently hundreds of thousands of pieces of space debris greater than 1 centimetre wide whizzing around in space. But while this space litter may be out of sight, out of mind for most of us, a new report on orbital debris has flagged potential solutions to deal with the threat.

The report anchors its space cleanup thinking and approaches to more down-to-Earth woes like acid rain, hazardous waste, chlorofluorocarbon and oil spills.

Avira: 25 pct of PC users disable antivirus software

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — A new survey from German antivirus and computer security firm Avira finds that about one in four PC users admit to turning off virus protection on their PCs because they thought the programmes were slowing down their computers. Furthermore, more than three out of five (62.8 percent) have tried multiple computer security products in the span of a year on the same computer, hoping to find one they like, and nearly one in eight (12 percent) have considered getting off the Internet altogether for safety reasons.

Firefox backs “Do Not Track” with online stealth

MOUNTAIN VIEW, 19 Dec — As concern about online privacy grows, Mozilla is promising to let people cloak Internet activity in free Firefox Web browsing software being released early next year.

“Technology that supports something like a ‘Do Not Track’ button is needed and we will deliver in the first part of next year,” said Mozilla chief executive Gary Kovacs.

A few hours out is one of the great problems of lightning and even tornadoes, but “predicting them a day in advance is almost impossible,” said Wei Liu, a professor of atmospheric sciences at the University of Miami. Liu and his team published their findings in an upcoming issue of the journal Geophysical Research Letters.

Avira says the survey questions were put to more than 100 million Avira customers around the world during November 2010, although the results are based on 9,091 respondents. Avira says the margin of error for the responses is between 0.28 and 1 percent although, if the respondents were self-selecting, it’s difficult to know how well the results apply to general computer users, or even to Avira’s customers. (For instance, most Mac OS X users don’t use any antivirus software at all, since the universe of malware targeting the Mac is a tiny fraction of that targeting Windows — for now, anyway.)

Internet

Firefox, Avira, Microsoft and Apple are driving online privacy to the forefront of users’ minds. Mozilla, which is now releasing a “Do Not Track” button in Firefox, has 25 percent of PC owners disabling their antivirus software.

Customers go online at a Sydney cybercafe. As concern about online privacy grows, Mozilla is promising to let people cloak Internet activity in free Firefox Web browsing software being released early next year.
**Health**

A hummingbird eats fruit from a tree Saturday, on 18 Dec, 2010 in Los Angeles.

**‘Chilled Out’ people have higher obesity, depression risk**

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—People who seem to face stressful situations without blinking an eye may have an increased risk of health woes such as obesity and depression, according to a new study.

These results mean that when the body underreacts to stresses in life, it can be just as bad for your health as overreacting, said study researcher Doug Carroll, a professor in the School of Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Birmingham in England.

Over-responding to stressors can increase the risk of hypertension and atherosclerosis, but under-responding to stressors may be associated with obesity, depression, poor immune functioning and poor overall health, Carroll said.

The finding doesn’t necessarily apply to all people with relaxed personalities, Carroll said.

**Early Alzheimer’s tests a mixed bargain**

New York, 19 Dec—New tests are finding diseases like Alzheimer’s at earlier stages, but treatment is not keeping pace, posing ethical dilemmas, US researchers say.

Dr Michael Rafii, a neurologist at the University of California, San Diego, has diagnosed Alzheimer’s years before major symptoms appear with tests like an MRI that assesses the volume of brain areas, and a spinal tap. The New York Times reports.

“I give them the diagnosis — we are getting pretty good at diagnosis now. But it’s challenging because what do we do then?” he told the newspaper.

Some doctors, like John Morris of Washington University in St Louis, will not offer patients the new diagnostic tests. He uses them in research but does not tell subjects the results.

**Business**

Not just the newest Toys hold risks for kids

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec—Tiny magnets, powerful batteries and laser lights are among the features on modern toys that can be just as dangerous as small parts and sharp edges have always been.

“Toys are for fun, joy and learning,” said Rachel Weintraub, director of product safety for the Consumer Federation of America. “They should be a source of all those things and less a source of potential and actual Hazard. Parents need to be vigilant.”

Her call for vigilance is backed by the numbers. Toy-related injuries sent more than 235,000 kids to US emergency rooms for treatment in 2008, according to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission. Another 19 children died as the result of a mishap involving a toy.

Choking hazards have long been a leading cause of death in children, prompting the creation of warning labels detailing small parts and recommending minimum ages for certain toys.

**BlackBerry Torch lights up RIM results**

TORONTO, 19 Dec—Research In Motion’s Torch, a touchscreen challenger to Apple’s iPhone, lifted the BlackBerry maker’s quarterly profit above analyst expectations on Thursday and the company forecast strong holiday season quarter.

RIM said net profit jumped 45 percent in its third quarter. Its shares rose as much as 3 percent in after-market trade.

The Torch, which combines RIM’s trademark mini keyboard with the glitzy touchscreen, shipped to dozens of carriers in the quarter after an August launch with AT&T in the United States.

“The results look pretty good. For the current quarter they definitely benefited from some new products... The guidance also looks quite strong,” said Shaw Wu, of Kaufman Bros in San Francisco.

The Canadian company said it expects to earn between $1.74 and $1.80 per share in the December to February quarter, sharply higher than analysts had been expecting.

RIM said it shipped 14.2 million BlackBerry smartphones in the latest quarter, a figure that edged past average analyst expectations. It added a net 5.1 million new subscribers, matching the average forecast for this key metric.

**Commuters transit from the PUTRA light rail coach in Kuala Lumpur in 2006. Malaysia is to start work on a $36 billion ringgit Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) system to link the city’s disparate commuter lines.**

**Britain, France, Germany demand EU budget freeze**

LONDON, 19 Dec — Three of the European Union’s big four states on Saturday demanded a freeze in the EU budget, saying Brussels cannot carry on spending more money as countries fight to sort their finances out.

Britain, France and Germany, backed up by Finland and the Netherlands, told European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso there should be a real terms freeze at 2013 levels, as the EU next year begins negotiations for the 2014-2020 period.

The letter, signed by British Prime Minister David Cameron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy, along with Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte and his Finnish counterpart Mari Kiviniemi, was released here by Cameron’s Downing Street office.

The leaders said the next EU spending round would come as states in the 27-member bloc made “extraordinary efforts to clean up public finances”, bringing down debts and deficits to a sustainable level.

The EU finances “cannot be exempt” from such attempts to bring public spending “under control”. 
Saudi police seizes 641 overstayers in week-long operation

JEDDAH, 19 Dec—Saudi police has seized 641 foreign overstayers in a security crackdown staged across the kingdom’s coastal city of Jeddah over the past week, the local Arab News daily reported on Saturday.

The police raids in the city’s ten neighbourhoods also led to the arrest of up to 30 suspects involved in dealing in liqueurs and drugs, harboring illegal immigrants and stealing cars.

“This week’s security sweeps resulted in the arrest of 32 crime suspects, and 641 illegal overstayers - men and women - were captured during the raids,” Jeddah police spokesman Nawaf Al-Bouq told the English-language newspaper.

“Those arrested are all in custody now and they will be transferred - along with items seized as evidence during the raids - to the authorities concerned,” the spokesman added.

The local residents have been urged to call security authorities in case of noticing any suspicious acts in the operations, the report said.—Internet

Boat capsizes in Bangladesh river, at least 37 die

DHAKA, 19 Dec—A boat packed with passengers capsized on a river in northeastern Bangladesh, and rescuers said Sunday at least 37 people died and 18 more were missing.

The boat carrying about 80 people collided with a sand-laden cargo vessel in the darkness late Saturday on the River Surma, local government officials Abul Hashem and Matin Rahman said. They said from the scene of the accident in Sunamganj District, about 110 miles (175 kilometres) northeast of the capital, Dhaka.

Some survivors swam to shore or were rescued by local villagers. The death toll reached 37 after rescuers recovered two more bodies Sunday. Thirty-five bodies were found soon after the accident, the officials said.

All the dead were from the passenger boat. Dhaka’s Prothom Alo newspaper reported most were women and children. The boat was traveling from Sunamganj to the neighbouring Kishoreganj District.

Boat accidents, blamed on lax rules and unfit vessels, are common in Bangladesh, a delta nation of more than 230 rivers.

A group of folk dancers from Colombia perform a traditional dance as they entertain children during a gift giving ceremony on 19 Dec, 2010, at the Children’s Museum in Manila, Philippines.—Internet

15 dead, 12 injured in Philippine hotel fire

TUGUIEVARAO, 19 Dec—A fire tore through a budget hotel, causing some guests and trapping others in upper floor bathrooms Sunday in the northern Philippines. Many of the 15 dead and 12 injured were nursing students in town to take a licensing exam, police said.

Some firefighters were released from the passenger boat. Dhaka’s Prothom Alo newspaper reported most were women and children. The boat was traveling from Sunamganj to the neighbouring Kishoreganj District.

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A group of folk dancers from Colombia perform a traditional dance as they entertain children during a gift giving ceremony on 19 Dec, 2010, at the Children’s Museum in Manila, Philippines.—Internet

Moderate earthquake rocks western Indonesia

JAKARTA, 19 Dec—A moderate earthquake measuring 5.4 on the Richter scale rocked western part of Indonesia’s Aceh province at 05:56 local time on Sunday (2256 GMT Saturday), the Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics Agency said here in a statement.

The earthquake was centered at 196 kilometres southwest of Sabang city and at a depth of 10 kilometers under seabed.

The agency did not release a tsunami warning.—Xinhua

Tourists pose for pictures with a snowman at St James park in central London on 18 Dec, 2010. Plunging temperatures and heavy snow saw large swathes of Britain grind to a standstill, as London’s Gatwick Airport closed its runway and British Airways canceled flights at Heathrow Airport.

INTERNET

Sky-diving plane crashes in La, three killed, two hurt

CROWLEY, 19 Dec—A small plane carrying a group of sky divers crashed Saturday in south-central Louisiana, killing three people and injuring two others on board.

A pilot and four jumpers were aboard the single-engine plane when it crashed shortly after take off, Acadia Parish sheriff’s deputy Maxine Trahan said.

Witnesses reported seeing the Cessna 182 take off about 2:30 pm from LeGros Memorial Airport in Acadia Parish. The plane was about 200 feet in the air when it lost power and the pilot attempted to make it back to the runway, FAA spokesman Lynn Lansford said.

One of the survivors has been released from the hospital and the other is staying overnight, Trahan said. The group had done at least one jump earlier in the day, she said.

When the plane crashed, the wreckage caught fire and three-fourths of the plane was burned, Trahan said. The three victims died at the scene.

Trahan has not released the identities of those on board.—Internet
China, Pakistan ink 10-bln-US dollar deals

ISLAMABAD, 19 Dec — China and Pakistan signed a number of trade deals worth about 10 billion US dollars, visiting Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao said here Saturday.

Addressing the China-Pakistan Business Cooperation Summit in Islamabad, Wen said the deals reflected the huge potential for expanding bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

The two sides inked some 20 trade deals during Wen’s visit covering projects in the sectors of new energy, agriculture, cotton yarn and non-ferrous metal imports.

A major deal is aimed at developing wind and solar power. Another one is on remote sensing satellite between the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission and the China Great Wall Industry Corporation.

“Currently, the existing difficulties in our trade cooperation are temporary problems, which we could completely overcome with joint efforts,” Wen said.

The Chinese premier, who arrived here Friday, urged a boost in the scale of bilateral trade and investment. The China-Pakistan trade volume only accounted for one-tenth of Pakistan’s overall foreign trade, he said, voicing his hope that the two-way trade could top 10 billion dollars as soon as possible.

With regard to trade imbalance, Wen said China understood the concern of Pakistan on the imbalance, and has taken measures to address the issue.

“China is ready to work closely with Pakistan to push forward the building of a bilateral free trade area in an all-round way, and gradually grant zero-tariff status to more Pakistani products,” he said.

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Lunar eclipse a rare treat for Hawaii

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — The lunar eclipse that will usher in winter will be the first visible in Hawaii in three years, scientists say.

By 9:42 Monday night Hawaii time, the moon will be in total eclipse, Mike Shanahan of the Bishop Museum in Honolulu said.

Since the full moon in December follows a high path across the sky, “this one will go way overhead,” he said.

The Earth’s shadow will begin to darken the moon at 1:33 am Tuesday EST and the event will finish at 5:01 am, CNN reported, citing NASA.

The winter solstice occurs at 6:38 pm Tuesday.

The total phase of the eclipse, when the entire moon passes through the Earth’s umbra, or inner shadow, will run from 2:41 to 3:35 am EST. Before and after the total eclipse, the moon will pass through the Earth’s outer shadow, the penumbra, which blocks some of the sun. —Internet

Without Social Security many women poor

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Half of US women age 65 and older — especially those not married — would live in poverty without Social Security, researchers found. Sara Rix, GSA pubic policy committee chairwoman, says with Social Security the poverty rate for women drops from 50 percent to 12 percent.

“Older women — especially those who are not married — rely heavily on Social Security, as this research brief makes clear,” Rix says in a statement. “Relatively modest changes to restore solvency to the Social Security system would ensure that these women and the generations that follow them will be able to depend on their Social Security benefits well into the future.”

Social Security is critical for women because they often live longer, earn less and withdraw from working because of responsibilities taking care of children and the elderly. In 2008, the median earnings of working-age women employed full-time, year-round were $35,000, compared with $45,000 for men.

Also in 2008, the average annual Social Security income received by women age 65 and older was $11,377, compared with $14,822 for men.
Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to pagodas …

The Senior General visited Maha Lawkamarazein Buddha Image and made cash donations to it. They viewed the Buddha images around the precinct. The Senior General called for long-term conservation of old starflower trees and systematically nurturing young starflower trees in the pagoda precinct.

Next, the Senior General and party visited Sandamuni Buddha Image and donated cash to it. They inspected tasks for all-round renovation of the image and religious buildings. Next, they visited Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image and paid reverence to it. The Senior General made cash donations and had a stroll in reverence of the image. In the afternoon, they arrived at Maha Muni Buddha Image. They were welcomed there by departmental officials and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General offered flowers, water and lights and paid homage to it. Members of the entourage: the Secretary-1, senior military officers from the Ministry of Defence and ministers offered gold foils to the Buddha image.

The Senior General signed in the visitors’ book and made cash donations to the image. They viewed the chamber of the image. Later in the afternoon, they arrived at Dagundaing Bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway. Chief Engineer (Road) of Public Works U Tin San reported on conditions of the alignment from Zaga-inn Roundabout of the highway to the bridge, and the seven bridges to be built on the alignment.

In response to the report, the Senior General called for completion of the construction work ahead of the monsoon, and inspected the alignment. He gave guidance on building a strong earthen road, and ensuring a smooth route to Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Senior General Than Shwe and entourage arrived at Yazamani Sula Kaunghmudaw Pagoda in Sagaing, Sagaing Region, this morning. They were welcomed there by Deputy Commander of North-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Ohn, senior military officers and departmental officials.

The Senior General and wife offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to Pinsalawha Buddha Image in the southern chamber of the pagoda.

The Senior General and wife donated cash to the image and signed in the visitors’ book. As a meritorious deed of saving lives of animals, the Senior General and wife and entourage members released several species of birds. They viewed the pagoda in reverence.

The Senior General and wife and party arrived at SoonU Ponnyashin Pagoda on Sagaing Hill, where they got a welcome from officials at the region level and members of the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General and wife offered food, fruit, flowers, water and lights to Kyautkawgyi Buddha Image in the northern prayer hall of the pagoda.

The Senior General and wife and party made cash donations to the pagoda. They observed the documentary photos and religious buildings in the pagoda precinct.

From the pagoda platform, the Senior General inspected the areas around the hill and called for constant conservation of Sagaing Minwun mountain range.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors’ book of the pagoda.

The Senior General and party arrived back here by air via Mandalay International Airport this afternoon.
Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image. (News on page 1)—MNA

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends...

(News on page 1)

—from page 16—
Adjointant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presented the first prize to the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team with 566 strokes, the second to Nay Pyi Taw Command team with 578 and the third to Yangon Command team with 579 in the inter-club (handicap) event; and the first prize to Central Command team with 672, the second to Eastern Command team with 718 and the third to the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Air) with 723 in the inter-club (scratch) event.

Chief of Armed Forces Training Lt-Gen Hla Hla Hla Hla presented the golfers with most par and birdie.

Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Win Myint presented prizes to best golfers in the individuals (handicap and scratch) events at respective golf courses.

Later, Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo gave longest drive and nearest pin awards to the respective golfers, prizes to best golfers in handicap and scratch events and the best diligence award to Western Command team.

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe from viewpoint of Mandalay Hill inspects progress in greening Mandalay Hill. (News on page 1)—MNA

SPDC Member U Tin Aye takes part in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.

MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe from viewpoint of Mandalay Hill inspects progress in greening Mandalay Hill. (News on page 1)—MNA

Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image. (News on page 1)—MNA

Prime Minister U Thein Sein takes part in Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.

MNA

Maha Hsutaungpyae Hnee Buddha Image. (News on page 1)
On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo tees off tracer ball to open Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament.

Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of Ministry of Defence attends Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2010. (News on page 16) — MNA

Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo presents first prize to Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament. (News on page 16) — MNA

Military Appointment-General Maj-Gen Win Myint presents best golfer award to winner in individual handicap and scratch event. (News on page 16) — MNA

Defence Services Inspection and Auditor-General (Army, Navy and Air) Maj-Gen Kyaw Phyo gives longest drive and nearest pin award to a winner. (News on page 16) — MNA

Yangon Region Inter-Basic Education School Cricket tournament kicks off

Yangon, 19 Dec — Co-organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No.3 Basic Education Department, Yangon Region Inter-Basic Education School Cricket tournament was opened in the sports ground of No.1 Basic Education High School, Lanmadaw Township yesterday morning. The opening ceremony was attended by No.3 Basic Education Department Deputy Director General U Myo Myint, officials, President of MCF U Nyunt Win and executives, guests and cricket fans.

The participating teams first took their positions and Dy DG U Myo Myint made an opening speech and formally opened the tournament.

Seventeen men’s teams and five women’s teams are taking part in the tournament. — MNA

The opening ceremony of inter-basic school cricket tournament of Yangon Region in progress. — MNA
Poll finds older online presence

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Older Americans are catching up to their younger counterparts when it comes to going online and being digitally savvy, a poll indicates.

The 2010 Generations report from the Pew Internet and American Life project found the "biggest online trend is that, while the very youngest and oldest cohorts may differ, certain key Internet uses are becoming more uniformly popular across all age groups," CNN reported Friday.

Those uses include e-mail, search engines, getting health information, following the news, researching or making purchases, online banking, supplying reviews or ratings, and donating to charity, the poll found.

While younger people are still significantly more likely to use social networking services, Pew reports that "the fastest growth has come from Internet users 74 and older: social network site usage for this oldest cohort has quadrupled since 2008, from 4 percent to 16 percent."

Younger users are increasingly discovering some Internet activities previously used more by older Americans, Pew said. While it used to be mostly older adults who searched for online health information, Pew said, this has become "the third most popular online activity for all Internet users 18 and older." — Internet

Suspect arrested over US embassy vehicle attack in Yemeni capital

SANAA, 19 Dec — Yemeni Interior Ministry said Friday it captured an Arab resident who hurled a hand grenade to a car in Sanaa while four US embassy personnel were onboard the car.

The ministry did not specify the nationalities of the targeted foreigners or the arrested Arab suspect. US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley or the arrested Arab suspect. US State Department spokesman Philip Crowley.

The US embassy in Sanaa confirmed the attack on Wednesday, but said it targeted "foreign residents." — Xinhuangled

Gold bounces off on bargain hunting

CHICAGO, 19 Dec — Gold futures on the COMEX Division of the New York Mercantile Exchange regained some ground on Friday.

The prices were caught between stronger US dollar and a burst of bargain hunting, as the recent dips prompted physical buyers to increase purchases of the precious metal. Silver jumped and platinum barely changed. The most active gold contract for February delivery jumped 8.2 dollars, or 0.6 percent, to 1,379.2 dollars per ounce. A trader mentioned that gold is still under pressure of a resurgent greenback, which continued to advance against the beleaguered euro after Moody’s Investors Service slashed Ireland’s credit rating, sparking renewed worries about the euro zone debt crisis.

A stronger dollar is usually considered quite bearish to gold prices, as it curbed the appeal of precious metals as alternative assets.

Man sentenced to 384 years for shooting spree in New York

NEW YORK, 19 Dec — The gunman behind a deadly shooting rampage was sentenced to 384 years in prison in New York, The Wall Street Journal reported on Friday.

Matthew Coletta, 39, who targeted people during a six-hour shooting spree four years ago in which one man was killed and 13 others shot at, was convicted last month of second-degree murder and 13 counts of second degree attempted murder.

Queens District Attorney Richard Brown was quoted as saying that the long sentence at least "serves as a measure of justice for (Mr. Coletta’s) victims and their families.

Coletta, who had been on a cocaine and alcohol binge, targeted red vehicles and people wearing red shirts on the street throughout several Queens neighbourhoods in August 2006, according to the report. — Xinhuangled

34 prisoners escape in Venezuela

CARACAS, 19 Dec — At least 34 prisoners escaped from jail in the Barcelona Justice Palace of Anzoategui state, Venezuela during a riot, local Press released on Friday.

During the riot, the majority of the 80 prisoners in the building tried to escape on Thursday due to the lack of security personnel.

Members of diverse security forces, including State Police, the Bolivariana National Guard and the Scientific and Criminal Investigation Corps arrived at the scene in an attempt to contain the riot.

Authorities have not yet disclosed how many were injured during the event, nor an official report has been released about what happened.
OBJECT SHOT OUT OF SKY ABOVE ISRAELI NUCLEAR PLANT, MILITARY SAYS

JERUSALEM, 19 Dec — The Israeli Air Force shot down an unidentified flying object over the Dimona nuclear plant in the Negev Desert on Thursday, the Israel Defense Forces said.

The object appeared in a designated no-fly zone, the air force was scrambled and the object was shot down, the IDF said.

The object could have been a party balloon, the IDF said, but forces have not yet found the debris to determine what it was. There have been unconfirmed media reports that it was a motor-driven object.

The air force reacted according to procedure when the object was spotted, the IDF said.

The Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz reported that last October “IDF warplanes intercepted an Israeli ultralight aircraft that accidentally flew into the area and forced it to land at an airstrip in southern Israel.” It also reported that “an Israeli surface-to-air missile downed a crippled Israeli fighter-bomber that strayed into the restricted zone” during the Six Day War in 1967. The craft’s pilot was killed.

AN UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT WAS SHOT DOWN IN THE SKIES ABOVE ISRAEL’S DIMONA NUCLEAR PLANT, PICTURED HERE IN 2004. — INTERNET

London, tuberculosis capital of Western Europe

LONDON, 19 Dec — The number of people infected with tuberculosis has jumped by 50 percent in London in the last decade, making it the tuberculosis capital of Western Europe, a new report says.

Unlike other countries in the region where tuberculosis is dropping, the disease is on the rise in Britain, particularly in London.

ZOO’S NEW LITTLE RHINO GOES FULL THROTTLE AS HE MEETS HIS PUBLIC

DUBLIN, 19 Dec — The new, snub-nosed, wrinkly resident of Dublin Zoo seems to be missing something important.

The male southern white rhinoceros calf recently born in the zoo is missing his horns — but don’t worry it is completely normal, according to keeper Helen Clarke-Bennett. “He was born with only the rough horns — but don’t worry it is completely normal,” she said.

The horns will grow about 10cm in the first year and 3cm a year from then on. The latest arrival was born last Friday and is one very big bundle of joy, weighing in at just under 50kg. In time he will grow up to a considerable 3,000kg.

THE NEW PANTS PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTION AROUND THE PELVIC AREA. — INTERNET

Internet

One Direction star top of the mops

LONDON, 19 Dec — Boy band heartthrob Harry Styles has been crowned top of the mops for his hit hairdo. The One Direction star — who came third in this year’s X Factor — has topped a poll declaring him to have the “best celebrity hair” of the year.

Topping the worst hairstyle list in the annual survey, commissioned by Brylcreem, are the gravity-defying quiffs sported by the Jedward twins. Curly-locked Styles turned the tables on X Factor winner Matt Cardle, who finished in second spot. But another contestant from the ITV1 show is an unlikely inclusion in the best barnet list — Wagner is listed in seventh place.

TROOPS GET ANTI-BLAST UNDERPANTS

LONDON, 19 Dec — British troops are being kitted out with special anti-blast underpants to protect them from homemade bombs. More than 340 soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan and thousands injured, often horrifically, from roadside bombs. But troops are now being issued with “pelvic protection”, a three-tiered system of clothing and armour consisting of special protective underwear and detachable armoured modular trousers. The £10 million system is designed to integrate with current kit.

Colonel Peter Rafferty, personal combat equipment team leader at Defence Equipment and Support, said: “Our troops in Afghanistan face specific threats and by working together, the MoD and industry have created a layered system of clothing and body armour that offers troops fighting on the frontline the best balance between protection, mobility and comfort. Troops on operations already have world-renowned body armour but we continually seek to improve the personal protection available to them.”

US INMATE JOHN DUTY EXECUTED WITH ANIMAL DRUG

WASHINGTON, 19 Dec — Officials in the US state of Oklahoma have executed a prison inmate using a drug cocktail that includes a sedative typically used to euthanise animals.

John David Duty, 58, is thought to be the first US prisoner to be executed using the sedative pentobarbital. Duty, who killed a cellmate in 2001, was pronounced dead at 1818 local time (0018 GMT) at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. A shortage of sodium thiopental in the US forced the state to make the change. A judge’s ruling to allow Oklahoma to substitute pentobarbital for sodium thiopental was upheld by a federal appeals court this week. Sodium thiopental, an anaesthetic, is usually used in the state’s lethal injection formula, which also includes drugs that paralyse muscles and stop the heart.


A SHORtAGE OF SODIUM THIOPENTAL IN THE US HAS LED OLMADA TO USE PENTOBARBITAL INSTEAD. — INTERNET

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Paul McCartney plays gig at tiny London club

**London, 19 Dec—** Former Beatle Paul McCartney played his smallest gig in more than a decade Friday in a bid to save a landmark London club faced with closure because of a steep rent increase.

McCartney played a lunchtime show before about 300 fans at the 100 Club in central London, wooing the crowd with “Magical Mystery Tour,” “All My Loving” and a host of other favourites.

It marked the first time McCartney had played the 100 Club, which once hosted the Rolling Stones, the Who, Metallica and others, including American jazz great Louis Armstrong. “Who wants to save the 100 Club?,” McCartney asked fans after he and his band walked on stage singing a cappella version of “Hey Jude.” Tickets for the gig cost 60 pounds ($90). Fans started lining up hours before the show in hopes of getting a seat.

**Three southern Californians break Guinness world record for continuous TV watching**

Three southern California men have broken a Guinness world record for continuous TV watching, having stared at a screen in a special Plexiglass box for 68 hours and six minutes Monday.

Farris Hodo, Kevin Cool and Victor Lopez outlasted 97 other contestants to earn the record as the endurance contest concluded four days after it began three days ago at the Hollywood & Highland central courtyard. Each of the three finalists was awarded a Guinness World Record certificate and $10,000 US dollars in prize money.

They beat the Guinness record — which was 86 hours — by six minutes.

The event was organized to promote the DVD release of the entire eight-season, 192-episodes of the Fox series “24” starring Kiefer Sutherland. Rather than viewing live TV, the contestants watched reruns of the series. The series is slated to release on 14 Dec.

**People measure the cold dish made from mashed potato during a food fair of Zhejiang Agriculture and Forestry University in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, 28 Nov, 2010.**

The 2.58-meter long and 2.48-meter wide cold dish cost eight chefs six hours to make with 1,294 kilogram mashed potato.

**Small expectations? Winfrey pick off to slow start**

**New York, 19 Dec—** When she learned that Oprah Winfrey had a new book pick coming, Cathy Langer of the Tattered Cover store in Denver ordered hun-dreds of copies, as she always does, even though the actual choice is not officially revealed until Winfrey announces it on her show.

But so far, Langer has seen few takers for the bound paperback volume of Charles Dickens’ “A Tale of Two Cities” and “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens. “I think it’s not all that exciting of a pick, frankly,” said Langer, head buyer for the Tattered Cover, a leading independent store.

“Oprah said she was going to promote the book. Well, good, it needs it. It needs some sexy hook to get people excited about it.” Dickens remains among the most popular of “classic” authors and Winfrey has been the publishing industry’s most dependable maker of hits.

**Olivia Wilde, Maria Bello bring Hollywood to Haiti**

**Los Angeles, 19 Dec—** After the devastating earthquake rocked Haiti earlier this year, food and medical aid poured into the island country, but in the months that followed a pair of Hollywood actresses and their friends had another idea. They wanted to build a movie theater.

It may seem like a far-fetched notion, but since it opened in September, the Sun City Picture House has become a place that generates smiles on the faces of children and adults. It also has been used as a community centre and school, and it helped spawn two similar buildings in different camps.

**Swedish med student gets teacher’s body at first autopsy**

It was their first ever autopsy, but students at one of Sweden’s top medical schools faced with a familiar sight in the classroom: the body on the table belonged to their late teacher.

“The first autopsy is really, really emotional, and we autop.sied someone we knew,” one of the shocked students told news agency TT Friday.

“She said that students were normally informed ahead of time of whose body they were to examine and that it was also the case this time.

But according to a student, the class did not find out until they saw their teacher’s name on the body’s toe tag.

The head of the department, Tina Dalanis, said she regretted the incident, but added the students needed to learn the tricks of the trade.

**Money flying from window gives away Ala robbers**

Authorities in Alabama say all they had to do to catch six bank robbery suspects was follow the money flying out the window of a speeding car.

The Gadsden Times reports that a deputy spotted the red Nissan Maxima cruising down a state highway, the cash left in its wake.

Cherokee County Sheriff Jeff Shaver says four gunmen took an undisclosed amount of money during the robbery Tuesday at Union State Bank.

He says the six suspects ditched their first getaway car and got into the Maxima to try and throw off authorities.

Shaver says all the suspects ran away after the car wrecked. But all six men were eventually arrested. One was found hiding in a garage can by tracking dogs.

**Berliner film fest to honour Germany’s Mueller-Stahl**

**Berlin, 19 Dec—** Armin Mueller-Stahl, one of Germany’s most internationally renowned actors, will receive an honorary Golden Bear lifetime achievement award at the 61st Berlin Film Festival, organizers said Friday.

Celebrating the 50-year career of the Oscar-nominated star, the Berlinale, which ranks among the top three European film festivals, hailed Mueller-Stahl as an “extraordinary artist.”

“Today Armin Mueller-Stahl is celebrating his 80th birthday. We wish him the very best and are delighted we’ll be awarding this extraordinary artist the Honorary Golden Bear ... in February,” said festival director Dieter Koslick.—Internet

**Olivia Wilde, Maria Bello bring Hollywood to Haiti**

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It may seem like a far-fetched notion, but since it opened in September, the Sun City Picture House has become a place that generates smiles on the faces of children and adults. It also has been used as a community centre and school, and it helped spawn two similar buildings in different camps.
Barcelona top for Christmas after derby demolition

MADRID, 19 Dec—Champions Barcelona will sit top of the Spanish first division for the Christmas break after notchin a tenth successive league victory with a resounding 5-1 win over city rivals Espanyol at the Cornella-El Prat stadium on Saturday.

Spanish World Cup winners Pedro Rodriguez and David Villa grabbed two goals apiece with compatriot Xavi Hernandez, one of three players shortlisted for the Ballon D’Or crown, netting the other as Barcelona triumphed in the Catalan derby, and opened up a five-point lead over second-placed Real Madrid.

Inter lift Club World Cup crown

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—European champions Inter Milan lifted the Club World Cup on Saturday after a 3-0 win in the Abu Dhabi final over African champions TP Mazembe. The Italians largely dominated proceedings and had the match in their pockets once Goran Pandev and Samuel Eto’o had bagged goals in quickfire succession inside the opening 20 minutes at Zayed Sports City.

Frenchman Jonathan Biabiany slid home a third to add further gloss in the closing stages as Inter succeeded last year’s winners Barcelona and added to Intercontinental Cup triumphs in 1964 and 1965 - a previous incarnation of the now expanded event.

The win meant that Inter chairman Massimo Moratti emulated his father Angelo, who held the post at the time of those two earlier successes.

Borriello comes back to haunt Milan

ROME, 19 Dec—Marco Borriello came back to haunt former club AC Milan. On Saturday, scoring the only goal of the game as Roma blew the Serie A title race wide open. Borriello struck 21 minutes from time with a lucky goal he knew next to nothing about but that won’t have worried the 28-year-old who was ditched by Milan in favour of bog-money signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic at the start of the season.

Victory was vital for Claudio Ranieri’s team, who would have fallen 13 points off the leaders had they lost. Instead they are now just seven points behind Milan whose lead will be cut to three points should either Juventus, Napoli or Lazio win on Sunday. Ranieri was understandably happy.

In-form Lisandro targets Marseille scalp

PARIS, 19 Dec—French title rivals Marseille and Lyon will each be hoping to strike a telling blow when they meet on Sunday evening, but it is visitors Lyon who have the momentum. Lyon, two points behind leaders Lille in third, are the division’s in-form team and have not lost in the league since a 1-0 defeat at the hands of local rivals Saint-Etienne on September 25 — a run of 10 matches. In stark contrast, Marseille are on a three-game unbeaten run and get into the Stade Velodrome showdown two points behind their rivals in fifth.

Key to Lyon’s revival has been the resurgence of Argentine striker Lisandro Lopez, who has scored seven goals in his last seven games.

Lindsey Vonn is 2010 AP Female Athlete of Year

NEW YORK, 19 Dec—Lindsey Vonn remembers being a 9-year-old wannabe Olympian, waiting in line for hours on end to shake the hand of a medal-winning skier and get an autograph. These days, Vonn is on the same path and hoping to inspire the next generation to hit the slopes.

Gold and bronze medals at the Vancouver Games, plus a consecutive Club World Cup over all title, helped Vonn become the 2010 Female Athlete of the Year, chosen by members of The Associated Press. She is the first skier - male or female — to win one of the annual AP awards, which began in 1931.

Benitez wants new blood despite Inter triumph

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—Inter Milan coach Rafael Benitez was happy to land his first silverware with the former Barcelona man scored. Eto’o took the golden ball accolade after organisers FIFA made him top man with the silver award going to Dioko Kaluyituka of beati finalists Tout Puissant Mazembe of DR Congo — the first African side to make it to the trophy match.

Eto’o voted top star at Club World Cup

ABU DHABI, 19 Dec—Inter Milan’s Cameroon striker Samuel Eto’o was voted top player at the Club World Cup after Saturday’s 3-0 final win over African champions TP Mazembe in which the Inter Milan’s forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic (R) reacts after missing a goal against AS Roma’s goalkeeper

Mainz close gap, leaders Dortmund downed by Gekas

BERLIN, 19 Dec—Mainz closed the gap at the top of the Bundesliga on Saturday to 10 points with a tense 4-2 win at wintry St Pauli as leaders Borussia Dortmund were beaten 1-0 at Eintracht Frankfurt.

Both Mainz striker Andre Sherrile and St Pauli midfielder Matthias Lehmann scored two goals, but a deft first-half chip by Mainz’s Hungary striker Adam Szalai kept the guests ahead on a bitterly cold night in Hamburg.

Mainz midfielder Marco Caligiuri settled the matter in the 83rd minute when he took a clever pass from substitute striker Sami Allagui and drilled his shot past the goalkeeper as Mainz went second.

Dortmund’s striker Lucas Barrios (R) and Frankfurt’s defender Aleksandar Vasoski fight for the ball during their German first division Bundesliga football match in the central German city of Frankfurt am Main. — INTERNET
Two killed in ice house shooting in US state of Texas

HOUSTON, 19 Dec—Six people were wounded, two fatally, in a shooting at an ice house in the US state of Texas early Saturday, authorities said.

Police were investigating the shooting that occurred around 2 am at an ice house in Stafford, a city in Texas, authorities said.

There were earlier disagreement between two groups at the bar, investigators said. The identities of the dead were not immediately released.

Xinhua
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Vice-Senior General Maung Aye attends Defence Services Commander-in-Chief’s Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2010

Also present at the tournament were Members of the State Peace and Development Council Thura U Shwe Mann, Prime Minister U Thein Sein, Member of the State Peace and Development Council U Tin Aye, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, ministers, the Auditor-General, senior military officers, the members of the Organizing Committee for the Tournament and golfers from 14 contending teams.

The opening ceremony was held at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course where Adjutant-General Maj-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, teed off tracer ball to open the tournament. The golfers from 14 contending teams took part in the first round of the tournament.

The second round of the tournament started at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course and Yepyar Golf Course, here, 6 am today.

The prize presentation ceremony followed in the evening. It was attended by Lt-Gen Min Aung Hlaing of the Ministry of Defence, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Admiral Nyan Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Vice-Admiral Myo Tun, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, the Auditor-General, senior military officers, the organizing committee members and golfers.

(See page 9)